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public undertakings, rank in the category of *real* property ; were the currency to fall fifty per cent., the market price of railway shares would double itself, on the supposition that no change for better or worse occurred to the lines, that the traffic remained the same, *and the Companies had the power of proportionally raising* (viz., doubling) *their tariffs.*

“In every case, where a railway or other public company already exacts the maximum rate of charge authorized by Act of Parliament, (unless Parliament should raise the tariff,) the value of the shares must decline ; inasmuch as the traffic receipts will remain stationary, while the working expenses will be doubled. It may even come to pass, on certain lines, that the receipts will not cover the cost of working. Without fresh powers from Parliament, the shares would become worthless, and the lines would either be abandoned or ceded to the state.” pp. 83 – 85.

ART. X.— CRITICAL NOTICES.

1. *Heaven, and its Scriptural Emblems.* By Rev. RUFUS W. CLARK. Boston : John P. Jewett & Co. 1853. 12mo. pp. 269.

THIS book is well worthy of its attractive title, its beautiful typography, and its rich artistical adornment. The subject belongs not to a sect, but to catholic Christianity ; and the author has treated it, not with the narrowness of a partisan, but with the freedom and largeness of spirit which must insure him admiring and edified readers from every portion of the Church. By this, we do not mean to say that he has suppressed all traces of his peculiar opinions in theology ; but he has left them in that background in which they fittingly belong, when the Paradise, open to all the good of every name, is the subject of discourse. The volume contains two essays which may properly be termed argumentative, namely, on the “Evidences of a Future Life,” and the “Recognition of Friends.” The former is a limitless subject in one aspect, while, in another, it may be compressed into a single sentence. As to the proofs of human immortality, aside from revelation, — in the feebleness of single arguments taken separately, and in the multitude of analogies, types, and foreshinings, all more or less noteworthy in making up a cumulative argument, — the task of selection and arrangement is difficult, and it is no small praise that, in the present

instance, it has been concisely and felicitously performed. But the one transcendent evidence, on which Mr. Clark, of course, places chief reliance, is the simple fact of our Saviour's forsaken sepulchre. The "Recognition of Friends" he has treated with all the affluence of analogical and scriptural reasoning of which it admits, and, at the same time, with a tenderness and unction which, with very many of the grief-stricken, will be immeasurably more persuasive than the strongest array of argument. The remaining essays are on various literal and metaphorical traits in the scriptural representations of heaven. They all breathe a spirit in sacred harmony with their theme. They indicate in their author a Christian whose spiritual life has been nourished by the beatitudes and the promises, and whose chosen work it is, not to drive, but to win, men to goodness and piety. They are adapted at once to attract, and to lead to deeper religious convictions, the merely æsthetic reader of well written books, to enlarge and exalt the legitimate scope of a sanctified imagination for the truly devout, and, especially, to discharge the gentlest, holiest ministries of consolation for the desolate, the bereaved, and those passing under the death-shadow. The book is printed and illustrated in the style of the *gift books* of the year, but has no more in its form than in its subject to render it obsolete with the year's wane; and we trust, that, for many years to come, it will continue to diffuse comfort, gladness, and hope among those to whom it is the Christian minister's privilege to "cry peace," and may help to guide more than one generation to the realization of those "Scriptural Emblems" which it has so lucidly and impressively expounded.

2. *Essays and Tales in Prose.* By BARRY CORNWALL. Boston: Ticknor, Reed, & Fields. 1853. 2 vols. 12mo.

WE think it would have been quite as well for the fame of Mr. Procter, if a considerable portion of these two pretty volumes had never been printed. Many of the "Tales" are as commonplace, and as destitute of life and invention, as the second-rate stories of second-rate magazines. We are sorry to say this, for we have a kind remembrance of the songs and dramatic sketches of the author, and dislike, as much as any one, to have our preconceptions disappointed. But, though a portion of these miscellanies are of so ordinary a stamp, there are good things among them. The writer is a sensible and genial critic, and a still better poet, in that sphere of poetry—the lyric—which he has